



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI*

### **EPA Brownfields Program**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### **Community Description**

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants, four cleanup grants, and a revolving loan fund grant. The economy of Milwaukee (population 596,974), a federal Renewal Community, has been dominated by manufacturing. Over the years, many older companies, such as motor manufacturers, tanneries, foundries, and breweries, have left the city, leaving behind a legacy of large and small brownfields. The city has documented at least 485 acres of brownfields on 206 tax-delinquent properties and at least 50 other severely underutilized parcels. Eighty-



### **Assessment Grants**

New  
2005

***\$200,000 for hazardous substances  
\$200,000 for petroleum***

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments in five Aldermanic Districts where 85 percent of the city's 206 tax-delinquent brownfields are located. Petroleum funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

### **Cleanup Grants**

New  
2005

***\$800,000 for hazardous substances***

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for four brownfields cleanup grants. Grant funds will be used to clean up metals and other hazardous substances contamination at the vacant lot at 701 East Vienna Avenue, a former industrial site; the Garden Park site at 821-33 E. Locust Street, impacted by contaminated fill; the Robert G. Betz Trust property, used at various times for automobile salvage, asphalt operations, and illegal dumping; and 502-04 West Cherry Street, site of an historic brewery and, later, a metal salvage/recycling business.

### **Revolving Loan Fund Grant**

New  
2005

***\$1,000,000 for hazardous substances***

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee will provide loans and subgrants to support cleanup activities for sites in areas contaminated with hazardous substances. The fund will be used to support cleanups around the city, with a focus on

five percent of these brownfields properties are in five Aldermanic Districts that are home to 20 percent of the city's residents. The populations in these districts are 89 percent minority. The unemployment and poverty rates are 16 and 36 percent, respectively, and the median household income is 75 percent of the city median. Assessment and cleanup of the various brownfields sites around the city will remove health threats and blight from the communities, return the sites to the city tax roll, and create employment opportunities in neighborhoods most in need. Once the East Vienna Avenue site and the Betz Trust property are cleaned up, the city plans to market both sites for industrial use that is expected to generate 200 high-quality jobs. Cleanup of the Garden Park site will allow for the lot to be used for a community meeting place, farmers' market, sculpture garden, and entertainment area. Cleanup of the historic brewery site on West Cherry Street will help connect the surrounding neighborhoods that are in various stages of redevelopment, and change the perception of the area.

Milwaukee's 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor and the Menomonee Valley/Inner Harbor area.

## **Contacts**

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team  
312-886-7576  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI  
414-286-5642

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.